

In The Claims:

Please replace the previously presented claim set with the following replacement claim set:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one thermoplastic polymer; and (b) melt processing ~~the resulting a combination of (iii) and at least one of (i) and (ii).~~
2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein either said ionic salt or said fluorochemical repellent is combined with said at least one thermoplastic polymer to form said combination, and the other is topically applied to ~~the a~~ surface of the ~~resulting~~ melt-processed combination.
3. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or

fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one thermosetting polymer or ceramer or the reactive precursors of said polymer or ceramer; and (b) allowing the resulting combination to cure.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the step of applying a topical treatment composition to at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one insulating material, said topical treatment composition comprising (a) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal; and (b) at least one fluorochemical repellent.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 4 wherein a first topical treatment composition comprises said ionic salt, a second topical treatment composition comprises said fluorochemical repellent, and said first and second topical treatment compositions are sequentially applied to said portion of said at least one surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) forming a solution by dissolving (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted

carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one insulating material in (iv) at least one solvent; (b) casting or coating the ~~resulting~~ solution on to at least one substrate; and (c) allowing evaporation of said at least one solvent.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) forming a polymerizable composition by combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one monomer; and (b) allowing polymerization of the monomer to occur.

8. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein said combining step comprises forming a blend of the ionic salt, the fluorochemical repellent and the thermoplastic polymer, and said melt processing step comprises melt processing the blend.

9. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein said melt processing step comprises an extrusion step.

10. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein said melt processing step comprises a molding step.
11. (New) The process of Claim 1 further comprising an annealing step.
12. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein said cation comprises an organic onium cation and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.
13. (New) The process of Claim 1 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.
14. (New) The process of Claim 3 wherein said cation comprises an organic onium cation and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.
15. (New) The process of Claim 3 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.
16. (New) The process of Claim 4 wherein said cation comprises an organic onium cation and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.
17. (New) The process of Claim 4 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl

sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides,
tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides,
bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and
tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

18. (New) The process of Claim 6 wherein said cation comprises an organic onium cation and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.

19. (New) The process of Claim 6 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

20. (New) The process of Claim 7 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.